Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11, and add new Claims 32-45, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a query of a travel database, comprising:

receiving a selected arrival location and a selected departure location;

finding a set of desirable fares between the arrival location and the departure location;

constructing possible itineraries between the arrival location and the departure location associated with the desirable fares;

applying a set of rules to the possible itineraries;

querying an availability portion of the travel database for available travel units ~~for the one or more travel segments~~ based upon the applied set of rules and the possible itineraries; and

displaying the available travel units in <u>at least a portion of a calendar of</u> a calendar-based user interface.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the calendar-based user interface displays applicability data and availability data simultaneously.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein applicability data comprises an indication of whether a travel unit is allowed on a prespecified day based on the set of rules.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the availability data comprises an indication of whether a travel unit is at least one of (1) available for sale ~~and~~ <u>or</u> (2) sold out.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the calendar-based user interface comprises a display of ~~at least a portion of a~~ <u>the</u> calendar.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the display further includes user-selectable hyperlinks for selecting a desired travel date.

7.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a query of a travel database, comprising:

a memory for storing an application program; and

a processor coupled to the memory, the processor configured under control of the application program to:

receive a selected arrival location and a selected departure location,

find a set of desirable fares between the arrival location and the departure location,

construct possible itineraries between the arrival location and the departure location associated with the desirable fares,

apply a set of rules to the possible itineraries,

query an availability portion of the travel database for available travel units ~~for the one or more travel segments~~-based upon the applied set of rules and the possible itineraries, and

cause the available travel units to be displayed in <u>at least a portion of a calendar of</u> a calendar-based user interface.

8.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the calendar-based user interface displays applicability data and availability data simultaneously on a display unit.

9.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein applicability data comprises an indication of whether a travel unit is allowed on a prespecified day based on the set of rules.

10.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the availability data comprises an indication of whether a travel unit is at least one of (1) available for sale ~~and~~-<u>or</u> (2) sold out.

11.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the calendar-based user interface comprises a display on the display unit of ~~at least a portion of a~~the calendar.

12.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the display further includes user-selectable hyperlinks for selecting a desired travel date.

13.   (Original) A calendar-based user interface for displaying query results from a database containing travel data comprising:

a calendar showing a plurality of days corresponding to the query;

an availability indicator for each of the plurality of days showing available itineraries relating to the query; and

an applicability indicator for each of the plurality of days showing itineraries relating to the query which apply based on a set of rules and restrictions from travel providers.

14.   (Original) The user interface of claim 13, wherein the availability indicator comprises a shaded day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is available on the shaded day.

15.   (Original) The user interface of claim 13, wherein the availability indicator comprises an availability icon associated with a day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is available on the associated day.

16.   (Original) The user interface of claim 13, wherein the availability indicator comprises a user-selectable hyperlink associated with a day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is available on the associated day.

17.   (Original) The user interface of claim 13, wherein the applicability indicator comprises a shaded day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is applicable on the shaded day.

18.   (Original) The user interface of claim 13, wherein the applicability indicator comprises an applicability icon associated with a day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is applicable on the associated day.

19.   (Original) The user interface of claim 13, wherein the applicability indicator comprises a user-selectable hyperlink associated with a day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is applicable on the associated day.

20.   (Original) A method for administering an availability portion of a relational travel database, comprising:

receiving an availability message from a first travel provider;

analyzing the availability message to determine one or more affected travel segments;

querying a schedule portion of the relational travel database for the one or more affected travel segments; and

writing a record to an availability portion of the relational database based on a status portion of the availability message if the one or more affected travel segments are found in the schedule portion of the relational database.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

initializing the relational travel database by processing a snapshot of existing availability messages at a predetermined time into the availability portion of the relational travel database.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

placing the availability message in a queue corresponding to the first travel provider.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

processing the availability message corresponding to the first travel provider in parallel with an additional availability message corresponding to a second travel provider.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

adding the availability message to an alternative processing queue if the one or more affected travel segments are not found in the schedule portion of the relational database.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

determining one or more travel legs corresponding to each of the one or more affected travel segments, including an origin leg and a destination leg;

determining a leg number for each of the one or more travel legs; determining a first leg and a last leg associated with each of the one or more affected travel segments;

identifying affected travel segments whose leg number of the first leg is at least the leg number of the origin leg and whose leg number of the last leg is at most the leg number of the destination leg; and

writing a record to the availability portion of the relational database based on a status portion the availability message for each identified affected travel segment.

26.   (Original) An apparatus for administering an availability portion of a relational travel database, comprising:

a memory for storing an application program; and

a processor coupled to the memory and operatively connected with the relational travel database, the processor configured under control of the application program to:

receive an availability message from a first travel provider,

analyze the availability message to determine one or more affected travel segments,

query a schedule portion of the relational travel database for the one or more affected travel segments, and

write a record to an availability portion of the relational database based on a status portion of the availability message if the one or more affected travel segments are found in the schedule portion of the relational database.

27.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the processor is further configured to:

initialize the relational travel database by processing a snapshot of existing availability messages at a predetermined time into the availability portion of the relational travel database.

28.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the processor is further configured to:

place the availability message in a queue corresponding to the first travel provider.

29.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the processor is further configured to:

process the availability message corresponding to the first travel provider in parallel with an additional availability message corresponding to a second travel provider.

30.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the processor is further configured to:

add the availability message to an alternative processing queue if the one or more affected travel segments are not found in the schedule portion of the relational database.

31.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the processor is further configured to:

determine one or more travel legs corresponding to each of the one or more affected travel segments, including an origin leg and a destination leg;

determine a leg number for each of the one or more travel legs;

determine a first leg and a last leg associated with each of the one or more affected travel segments;

identify affected travel segments whose leg number of the first leg is at least the leg number of the origin leg and whose leg number of the last leg is at most the leg number of the destination leg; and

write a record to the availability portion of the relational database based on a status portion the availability message for each identified affected travel segment.

32.   (New) A method for processing a query of a travel database, comprising:

receiving a selected arrival location and a selected departure location;

finding a desirable fare between the arrival location and the departure location;

constructing possible itineraries between the arrival location and the departure location associated with the desirable fare, the possible itineraries being for a plurality of days of at least one month;

querying an availability portion of the travel database for available travel units for at least one day of the at least one month based upon the possible itineraries; and

displaying a calendar-based user interface that includes a calendar displaying the dates that the desired fare is available.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the calendar-based user interface comprises at least one tabular register representing the at least one month, each tabular register including a plurality of cells representing the plurality of days of the month, and wherein the displaying step comprises displaying first indicia within at least one cell of the at least one tabular register, the first indicia indicating at least one available travel unit for the respective day of the month represented by the respective cell.

34.   (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the displaying step further comprises displaying second indicia within at least one cell of the at least one tabular register, the second indicia indicating at least one of an nonavailability or nonapplicability of any travel units for the respective day of the month represented by the respective cell.

35.   (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the displaying step further comprises displaying third indicia within at least one cell of the at least one tabular register, the third indicia indicating a sellout of all travel units for the respective day of the month represented by the respective cell.

36.   (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the first indicia comprises a user-selectable hyperlink for selecting the respective day of the month represented by the respective cell.

37.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving a selected arrival location and a selected departure location independent of at least one of a departure date or an arrival date, and wherein the finding and constructing steps comprise finding a desirable fare and constructing possible itineraries between the arrival location and the departure location for a plurality of at least one of departure dates or arrival dates.

38.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the desirable fare comprises a lowest fare between the arrival location and the departure location.

39.   (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
applying a set of rules to the possible itineraries,
wherein the querying step comprises querying the availability portion further based upon the applied set of rules.

40.   (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the set of rules includes at least one of minimum required stays, maximum allowed stays, and advanced purchase requirements.

41.   (New) A method for displaying possible dates that a fare is available to a user, comprising:
receiving a selected arrival location and a selected departure location;

finding a desirable fare between the arrival location and the departure location;

determining what departure dates and return dates that the fare is available; and

displaying in a calendar the departure and return dates on which the fare is available.

42.   (New) The method according to Claim 41, wherein said determining step comprises:

constructing possible itineraries between the arrival location and the departure location associated with the desirable fare, the possible itineraries being for a plurality of days of at least one month;

querying an availability portion of the travel database for available travel units for at least one day of the at least one month based upon the possible itineraries; and

displaying in a calendar the dates that the desired fare is available.

43.   (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving a selected arrival location and a selected departure location independent of at least one of a departure date or an arrival date, and wherein the determining step comprise finding a desirable fare and constructing possible itineraries between the arrival location and the departure location for a plurality of at least one of departure dates or arrival dates.

44.   (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the desirable fare comprises a lowest fare between the arrival location and the departure location.

45.   (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

applying a set of rules to the possible itineraries,

wherein the querying step comprises querying the availability portion further based upon the applied set of rules.